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24 February 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Reference

SUBJECT : COSATI Meeting, 16 February 1966

1. Because of late arrivals and early departures, this was a brief meeting devoted almost entirely to panel business. Bill Knox announced that three systems people have joined Panel No. 1 on Operational Techniques and Systems, and two others have been nominated.
2. Ed Brunenkant called attention to the Chemical and Engineering News article (31 January 1966) on the science newspaper. It has not yet been decided whether to approach a foundation for seed money to get the paper underway.
3. Ed Stiles announced that NLM, FAA and the Geological Survey are now represented on his panel on Operational Techniques and Systems. He reiterated the need for work on standards and said that a group is being set up within his panel to tackle this chore. As a starter, they will try to put on paper the responsibility of COSATI in this area and then list the areas where standards work is urgently needed. This review will take three approaches: (a) by discipline, (b) by function and (c) by format. There are at least 200 groups working on standards, many of which are pertinent to COSATI. There is some likelihood that the American Standards Association will receive a federal charter which would strengthen their hand in international discussions. Berny Fry and Logan Cowgill work with ASA subcommittees. At this Bill Knox interposed the view that COSATI's role is to get advice and keep people informed, but not to do all the doing itself.
4. Ed Stiles announced that he plans a two-day retreat discussing, STAT among other things, depository libraries. He said that the photo copies of the draft Corporate Author List are due the end of the month and that the descriptive cataloging standard will be discussed by his panel in March.
5. Ruth Davis announced that the second report of her Panel on Information Sciences Technology has been completed and the third and fourth reports are well along. She amended an earlier announcement to indicate that 910 projects (not 800) were found that contributed to her panel's deliberations. There was some discussion

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of the purpose of R&D work in information sciences. Bill Knox pointed out that there was frequently a serious gap between the undertaking of R&D work and actual managing of information. Walter Carlson said that information sciences R&D must support the effectiveness of an S&T mission and in doing this it may occasionally bypass completely traditional information handling activities. Bill Knox felt that information managers should be more aware of R&D work in areas that might affect the information cycle. Ruth Davis agreed intuitively but said that she has not yet been able to come up with proof.

6. John Sherrod spoke for the Panel on Education and Training. He said that his group is emphasizing undergraduates and graduate programs rather than a retreading of people already active in information handling. The National Science Foundation will identify who's who in information processing, while the Office of Education will review courses and training programs now available. Each group will try to keep current in its field. Next summer the deans of library schools plan to meet in Washington. He hopes that the government will be prepared to state its needs to them in terms of manpower and required skills. Michigan has taken a step towards the interplay of disciplines by teaching its undergraduates how to use a computer. Lehigh is hoping to teach its engineering students how to handle information. These programs will be followed closely. Twenty-seven universities involving 110 campuses are experimenting with "edunet" to improve communication in the academic world. There will be a meeting on the subject at Chapel Hill this April. The National Library of Medicine has the green light for postgraduate training of science librarians. The Civil Service Commission has rewritten its December draft of standards for technicians, librarians, and technical information specialists.

7. Mel Day spoke on international information activities. He said that Dr. Cummings has drastically revised his draft on international release of tapes and that this will be reviewed shortly. Seymour Taine's paper on present domestic availability is now in typing.

8. Burt Adkinson said that the paper on serials is nearly ready for presentation to COSATI. It will have an evaluative covering letter pointing out the implications of its findings.

9. Berry Fry said that six long term plans have been received responsive to the State Technical Services Act. He said that the purpose of this effort is not information handling but rather technology transfer. In other words, this activity will not support research as much as it will obviate the need for duplicative research.

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10. It was announced that the Japanese have expressed interest in receiving MEDLARS tapes. The Interagency Committee on Information Security, chaired by the Attorney General, is concerned with the international exchange of tapes.

11. DoD and NASA presented their project reporting program to the last meeting of the Federal Council. Dr. Hornig was enthusiastic and there will doubtless be a push for greater participation in this type of reporting of work in progress.

12. Bill Knox has been invited to attend the Federal Library Committee meeting 23 February 1966 which will discuss automation.

13. The next meeting of COSATI is scheduled for Wednesday, 16 March 1966.



Chief Reference Librarian

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